

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-42 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6-13, 18-25 and 30-42 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nagle (U.S. Patent No. 6,067,096) in view of Moore et al. ("Collision Detection and Response for Computer Animation"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, none of the applied references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest an image generation system and associated computer usable program and image generation method comprising providing a shooter, and the shooter shoots at an object, as recited in independent claims 1, 13 and 25. Moreover, none of the applied references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest an image generation system and associated method that includes switching processing from a generation of the object's motion through a physical simulation to a play of the object's motion based on the pre-stored motion data when a condition is satisfied, as recited in independent claims 8, 9, 20, 21, 32, 34 and 37-42.

Specifically, Nagle teaches a method of computer operation and a software system for operating a computer to generate realistic collisions between animated bodies (Abstract).

Moore teaches collision detection and response and describes modeling collisions of arbitrary bodies using springs (Abstract).

However, Nagle does not teach a shooter, and that the shooter shoots at an object, as recited in independent claims 1, 13 and 25. Moreover, Moore fails to cure deficiencies in Nagle in disclosing or rendering obvious a shooter. As such, independent claims 1, 13 and 25 are patentable over Nagle and Moore.

The Office Action asserts that Nagle teaches switching processing from a generation of the object's motion through the physical simulation to a play of the object's motion based on motion data when a given condition is satisfied and points to col. 16, line 64 to col. 17, line 46 (Office Action, page 4, lines 19-22). However, the portion of Nagle relied on by the Office Action is the description of Fig. 34, and Fig. 34 illustrates a process that is itself a physical simulation and not switching from a physical simulation to a play of pre-stored motion data, as recited in independent claims 8, 9, 20, 21 and 32-34. As such, independent claims 8, 9, 20, 21 and 32-34 are patentable over a combination of Nagle and Moore.

Moreover, Nagle does not disclose or suggest causing the object to perform a connecting motion which connects a motion generated by the physical simulation with a motion played based on the pre-stored motion data, as recited in independent claims 37-42. As such, claims 37-42 are patentable over a combination of Nagle and Moore.

Accordingly, the asserted combination of Nagle and Moore would not have resulted in the subject matter of independent claims 1, 8, 9, 13, 20, 21, 25, 32, 33 and 37-42. As such, these independent claims, and their dependent claims, are patentable over Nagle and Moore. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-42 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Tarik M. Nabi  
Registration No. 55,478

JAO:TMN/tje

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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